

poet and precocious young man from my district. Mattie died recently from complications due to a rare form of muscular dystrophy. The 13-year-old captured the hearts of millions with his poetry and message of peace.

Mattie will forever be remembered as a bright-eyed boy with a big, dimpled smile whose personal philosophy was "remember to play after every storm." Mattie's poetry rose to the top of the New York Times best seller list and will now inspire people for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, Mattie was an incredible role model and inspiration for all Americans. In spite of his hardships, he dedicated his life to spreading harmony and hope. Mattie's message will live on through his poetry. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this time of loss.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROOKE
AND MIKE MAROTH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brooke and Mike Maroth—the recipients of the 2004 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Mr. and Mrs. Maroth have provided food aid to thousands of the nation's less fortunate. By greatly expanding the Rock and Wrap It Up! program, they are feeding the hungry in Detroit and around the nation.

Mr. and Mrs. Maroth's innovation came at Mike's workplace—he has been a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers since 2002. After games at Comerica Park, leftover food would simply be thrown away. Brooke and Mike connected their effort to distribute that food with Rock and Wrap It Up!—a program which donated leftover food from concert events—and started a whole new facet of the mission. Sports Wrap was the new venture, using the leftover food recovered from the stadium and clubhouse at Comerica. They have fed over 5,000 people in the Detroit area since 2003.

Programs are underway at other stadiums throughout the country. Because of the philanthropic vision of Mr. and Mrs. Maroth, their good work has been repeated in other major-league cities. That is the mark of great volunteers—that others repeat their example. This is truly the case with Mr. and Mrs. Maroth.

This is the vision my husband Bill Emerson had for domestic food aid programs when he worked to pass the Good Samaritan Food Act protecting these donations from liability.

Mr. and Mrs. Maroth have more than earned the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Bill's hopes for hunger relief in America were very high when he worked to make Rock and Wrap It Up! possible in 1990.

Rock and Wrap It Up! is a volunteer hunger relief charity, which has fed over 20 million since its inception. With over 4,000 volunteers in 500 cities across America, its dedicated supporters recover food in schools, colleges, music concerts, sporting events, and political and corporate functions. Rock and Wrap It Up! was adopted by resolution in 2003 by the United States Conference of Mayors to teach its successful strategies to cities to fill America's food pipeline to feed the indigent.

Brooke and Mike are a major reason the program continues to gain notoriety and grow.

They are proof that our commitment to feed America's hungry can always use new initiative and better ideas. As long as there are men, women and children who need the helping hand of other Americans, others like Brooke and Mike Maroth have proven they will be there with a helping hand to offer.

Thank you for your kind service to our nation, Mr. and Mrs. Maroth. Congratulations on earning the 2004 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Award. Best of luck to both of you as you continue your noble work.

RECOGNIZING PENN STATE'S 150TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1854, a young and dynamic America witnessed several historic events. The Republican Party was organized. Commodore Matthew Perry signed a treaty opening Japan to American trade. And Penn State University was founded.

Penn State was at the forefront of the uniquely American practice of widespread higher educational opportunity. In 1863, Penn State became one of the first two land grant educational institutions. Penn State now includes over 20 campuses with 83,000 students.

Penn State is nationally known for its athletic triumphs. More importantly, it has affirmed the value of the scholar-athlete. Penn State graduates its athletes at rates substantially higher than fellow Division I schools. It's no accident that Penn State's library is named for its beloved Joe Paterno while its sports arena is named for a former Penn State president.

Penn State consistently demonstrates its prowess in the sciences and engineering. My district's Kennedy Space Center has launched four Penn State alums into space including Guion Bluford, the first African American to fly into space. Penn State ranked ninth in university patent recipients in 2002. Several Penn State graduate schools rank in U.S. News & World Report's top ten.

But alumni are the real interpreters of Penn State. 466,000 serve as teachers, farmers, physicians, lawyers, artists, scientists, engineers, and yes even Congressmen and women.

So this Penn State alum sends his congratulations to Penn State for its sesquicentennial.

A TRIBUTE TO MEDGAR EVERS
COLLEGE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Medgar Evers College for adding a Baccalaureate degree program in Social Work to its curriculum. Social Work is an invaluable profession for creative and positive change in our communities, and I commend Medgar Evers for fulfilling this vital social need.

The announcement of this degree program coincides with National Social Work Month. Being a social worker myself, I know the vital role this profession plays in empowering individuals and enhancing social well-being.

Social workers are able to reach the most disaffected members of our communities. People who otherwise would have fallen through the cracks are taught to identify and manage the underlying environmental forces behind their social problems.

There are approximately half a million social workers actively involved in helping individuals with various needs in areas such as health, mental illness, diversity, children, families, aging, poverty, human rights, and social injustice. Despite the far-reaching benefits of social work it is a profession in need of new members. Nearly three fourths of all social workers were born before 1960, and their median age is 50. Programs like the one being started at Medgar Evers are essential for preparing a new generation of social workers to address the complex problems facing society today.

Social workers are on the front lines, battling the many social problems plaguing our communities. The very nature and goal of social work is to help people. I cannot think of a profession more worthy of praise or more significant in impact.

Medgar Evers College faithfully serves the community by fulfilling its mission of meeting "the educational and social needs of Central Brooklyn through the development and maintenance of high quality, professional career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education." The creation of a degree in Social Work is another step forward in this fine educational tradition.

I know that my own education in social work has been invaluable in both my personal and professional lives, and I am happy that Medgar Evers is supporting this noble and important profession.

Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers College is working hard to serve its community through the addition of a Social Work degree to its curriculum. As such, it is worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable institution.

HONORING PENN STATE
UNIVERSITY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania State University is among the most recognizable institutions of our state.

The school is home to one of the country's most storied and successful college football programs.

Today, we celebrate its 150th anniversary, not for its football program, but for its service to our state and its world class academic traditions.

For even the football program, led ably by Joe Paterno, sets the academic standard for programs across the nation. It is part of an athletic department defined by excellence on and off the field.

Penn State graduated 80 percent of student-athletes from the entering class of 1996—

97 within 6 years, compared to a national average of 62 percent for student-athletes at all Division I NCAA institutions.

The football team produced an especially noteworthy academic performance, with 86 percent of the freshmen entering in 1996–97 earning their degrees—significantly above the national rate of 54 percent.

Since 1854, when the school was founded as Farmers' High School, Penn State has revolutionized the way our state approaches farming and continues to be among the world's leaders in agricultural research and innovation.

Over the years, Penn State has expanded its offerings to include every serious academic discipline.

U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools 2004" places a number of Penn State programs among the nation's top ten, including supply chain/logistics, industrial/manufacturing engineering, materials engineering, nuclear engineering, agricultural engineering, higher education administration, administration/supervision, vocational/technical education, counseling services, ceramics, and rehabilitation counseling.

Penn State's Smeal College of Business has been ranked among the nation's top "Best Undergraduate Business Programs" at public universities.

The honors extend to undergraduate disciplines across the academic spectrum. In 2003, 15 Penn State faculty or staff members received regular grants to lecture or conduct research abroad as Fulbright Scholars, more outgoing Fulbright grants than any other institution in the United States.

But the measure of a university extends beyond commencement day and even beyond the classroom or research lab.

A university's reputation in businesses and communities across the nation is carried and enhanced by that university's alumni.

Penn State has 466,000 living alumni worldwide, 240,000 of them in Pennsylvania.

The Penn State Alumni Association, formed in 1870, has more than 146,000 members, making it the largest dues-paying alumni association in the nation.

These men and women carry the standard for their alma mater and are proof of the world-class education Penn State students receive during the time on campus.

I am honored to join my colleagues in both House and Senate from the Keystone State in honoring Penn State and thanking its administrators, professors, students, and support personnel for offering a terrific education at a reasonable price to so many for so long.

It is an honor well-deserved.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the resolution congratulating the Pennsylvania State University on its 150th Anniversary and reaffirming its designation as a land grant university.

On February 22, 1855, Pennsylvania Governor William Pollock signed the charter that

created what eventually became The Pennsylvania State University. Penn State will be celebrating its 150th anniversary from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Penn State on its achievements over the years. In addition, I would also like to recognize the importance of the branch campuses to the success of Penn State University.

Initially a small college dedicated to the study of scientific agriculture, Penn State was designated the Commonwealth's sole land-grant institution in 1863. In 1874, the Agriculture College of Pennsylvania became the Pennsylvania State College and in 1954 became the Pennsylvania State University.

Currently, Penn State has an enrollment of 83,000 students, which consists of individuals at the main campus in University Park, the 20 branch campuses, located across Pennsylvania and students at the College of Medicine, the Dickinson School of Law and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. As a result, 1 in every 8 Pennsylvanians with a college degree attended the Pennsylvania State University.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the branch campuses in my district for the role they play in educating Penn State students. There are three branch campuses located in my district: Penn State Hazleton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Penn State Worthington-Scranton. These branch campuses came about in the 1930's when students could no longer afford to travel away from home to college because of the Depression.

Since then, these branch campuses have evolved, offering the four-year bachelor degrees, associates degrees and a wide range of continuing education classes to students in our area. In addition, the branch campuses offer certificates and professional development credits. As a result, many businesses in my area encourage their employees to take classes at the branch campuses. The branch campuses, therefore, have not only increased the educational attainment level of the workforce in my district, they have also helped promote economic development in the region.

Over the next year, the Pennsylvania State University will mark its anniversary with series of special events highlighting the achievements of the university. I wish them well over the next year and in the years to come as they continue to provide quality education to students in Pennsylvania.

HONORING 150 YEARS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, since its inception 150 years ago as a pioneering land grant college located in an area now known to millions as "Happy Valley," the Pennsylvania State University has come to the forefront of American collegiate academic and athletic achievement by doing things honorably and exceptionally . . . by doing things "The Penn State Way."

Today, Penn State still maintains their commitment to providing premier agriculture

science education while expanding their national prominence in the areas of engineering, business, architecture, meteorology, social sciences, arts, and communications. Penn State's 24 campus locations boasts an unprecedented 83,000 undergraduate, graduate, law and medical students that have the opportunity to take 11,300 courses in 180 degree majors! With so many scholastic avenues worth pursuing and exploring, Penn State provides every undergraduate student with a well-balanced education through their extensive general education requirements. However, Penn State's educational leadership far exceeds the boundaries of the classroom through their distance education and statewide agricultural extension programs.

If you have ever talked to a Penn State alumnus—and with 1 in 720 Americans holding a Penn State degree, it isn't hard to find one, it will take just a moment for them to envelop you with their enthusiastic love for the Nittany Lions. As Americans we have all benefited in one way or another from either a Penn State alumnus, or Penn State research guided achievement. Imagine what our lives today without the only FDA approved heart pump, the electron microscope, the screenplay to "Casablanca" or a Fischer Price toy. In addition to the hundreds of my constituents graduating from Penn State every year, I have been able to personally benefit from Penn State's outstanding academic programs through the knowledge that was imparted to my current staff, Judy Borger, Amanda Murphy, and Jeff Urbanchuk, and to former staff member Sara McGraw.

If you are lucky enough to visit, it can take as little as a walk through Old Main lawn while enjoying a scoop of Peachy Paterno ice cream from the Creamery, or sitting among 108,000 of your closest friends in Beaver Stadium watching the Marching Blue Band perform their signature "Floating Lions" drill to perfection, to understand why Penn State has the largest alumni association in the world . . . because once you've experienced Penn State, you will never want to let go.

For years, Penn State has built a reputation of integrity, respect, and competitiveness in their nationally-renowned programs in fencing, gymnastics, women's volleyball, women's basketball, soccer, and swimming—while more importantly serving as a shining example to other universities by putting the student before the athlete.

And then there's the football. One cannot talk about Penn State's history and achievements without acknowledging the 53 years of unmatched leadership from Joe Paterno—a truly great example of what it means to be Penn State proud. Under his watchful eyes, Penn State has become a national powerhouse in men's college football, accruing 2 national championships and 5 undefeated seasons. However, when asked about his most important successes, Mr. Paterno will not quote these figures for you, nor will he mention that he is one of the most winning coaches in NCAA history, because the most important figure to Mr. Paterno is his team's graduation rate—with over 80 percent of Penn State football players graduating within 6 years, well above the national average.

Even if a student hasn't experienced the pride of playing in the nameless blue and white uniforms, or enjoyed a Saturday afternoon at Beaver Stadium cheering on the team